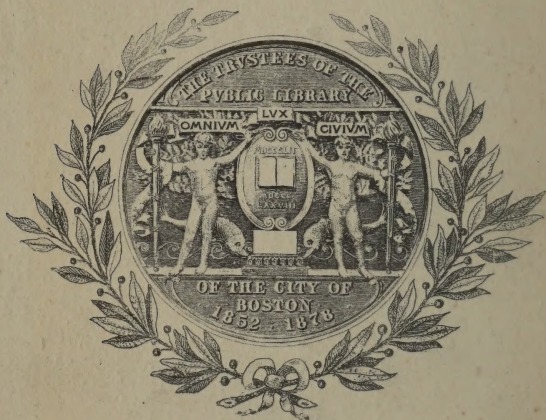


VOICE: ITS ORIGIN AND DIVINE NATURE

BY HARRY MUNRO

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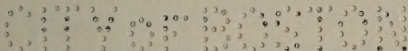
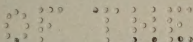
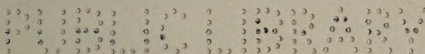


Harry Munro

OSTON
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VOICE: ITS ORIGIN AND DIVINE NATURE

BY HARRY MUNRO



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By

HARRY MUNRO

WARRIOR
AND
MORRIS

PREFACE

The knowledge herein stated is scientific. Any honest seeker after truth can prove this to his own satisfaction by applying it. But one cannot glean this knowledge without constant study.

If half of the time that is given to vocalization be given to the study and demonstration of the Principle set forth in this work we may hope soon to have a new race of singers.

The short life of the singing voice and the chaotic state of the vocal world to-day are due to singers' and teachers' ignorance of God. This can be remedied only by a different direction being given to thought.

To those who have been wrecked on the shoals of "voice-production" but who still have hope, and to all other sincere seekers after truth, this little book is dedicated.

HARRY MUNRO.

New York, 1916.

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VOICE: ITS ORIGIN AND DIVINE NATURE

CHAPTER I

THE MOTIVE POWER OF VOICE

The lips don't know they move; the tongue doesn't know it moves; the soft palate doesn't know it moves; the larynx doesn't know it moves; the lungs don't know they breathe—which is equivalent to saying that there is no intelligence in the body. The body is not the source of intelligence.

Then where and what is the power that sings? We know that it is possible to sing and that certain people have this power. We have found that the power to sing is not in the body; therefore, we must conclude that it is in Mind and is mental; being mental and a good power, it must be spiritual and therefore originates in God. Man reflects this power and it must be the I or ego which sings.

When all thought of placing the voice is given up and no thought put upon the diaphragm, breath, chest, throat, larynx, tongue, soft palate, nose, teeth, hard palate or lips, we shall come nearer to being natural and we cannot help but sing more naturally. It is the false beliefs one holds that stop one from expressing perfect voice. These beliefs must be gotten rid of before we can attain perfect voice.

Singers are too tied up with false beliefs, and so are teachers. The beliefs about voice placing, breathing, forward tone and backward tone are false and have nothing to do with singing. Forget all about physiology and simply sing. God has given man this power and one has only to exercise it. Man is free born and doesn't have to be tied up with false beliefs, which only cause fear, before he can sing. The power to sing is always present. Your knowing this will overcome any thought which seems to stop you from singing.

The world has had too much false teaching and is now beginning to look in other

directions for something which it has not found in the body. Two books have been written within the past few years on the "psychology" of singing, which only goes to show the need of truth for singers. What cannot be explained is called psychology.

A student who has a beautiful voice says to himself, "I have a beautiful voice but I don't know how to sing. I must go to a teacher to have my voice placed." After a time he finds himself in the mazes of tone production and comes to the conclusion that he had more voice, and a better voice, before he ever had a lesson.

Why all this worry about voice? Because singers are looking for voice in the body, where it does not exist. But you may say, "the vocal cords move when I sing." So they do, and they move better when you don't think of them.

All teaching of today leads to self-consciousness. Self-consciousness is the one thing not wanted or needed in singing. In fact the less self-conscious a singer is the better he will sing. He who can entirely forget his body, will sing greatly.

The thoughts one holds affect voice. Perfect voice is a result of perfect thought. What you think about voice you manifest. If you are thinking thoughts of fear, your voice manifests dis-ease; in other words, your voice is not easy. If you believe singing is difficult, it will be so; if you believe singing is easy, it will be easy. The thoughts one believes should be right thoughts, which are true thoughts, and come from the great source of truth—God.

The truth about voice has not been found in the body and it is time that singers began to look to Mind, where the voice actually resides. You carry your voice in your mind, that is, you constantly think of your voice, and, dear reader, it is purely mental. The fact that you associate your voice with your throat and body does not prove that your voice is in your body; it only proves that you are laboring under a false belief. The body cannot sing.

Voice is spiritual and cannot be diseased. Voice is and must be perfect, coming from a perfect source. It will never

be more perfect than it is now. It is for us to understand and know this fact. Starting with a perfect premise we must reason rightly to reach a perfect conclusion. Voice is, always was, and always will be perfect. Nothing but error in belief can stop a singer from manifesting his rightful heritage, which is perfect voice.

It is not the voice that needs to be changed, but a person's false beliefs about voice. We look at effects and call them causes. We must stop this backward sense of reasoning, which is nonsense, and get into harmony with the laws of life and truth, which will lead us into perfect voice.

Most singers are trying to improve their voices by getting a better quality of tone, when the fact is that voice is now perfect. All that needs to be improved is the quality of one's belief. The voice always remains the same—perfect—and cannot be changed by physically working with it. Change the belief and the voice changes, which again shows that voice is in Mind and cannot exist without Mind.

If you think of throat or diaphragm while singing, you are attributing intelligence to organs that do not know they exist. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." If you know the truth about voice, the beliefs which have been holding you in bondage will disappear and you will manifest perfect voice. This shows once more that your voice was always perfect but did not manifest perfection on account of the false beliefs which you had held. When these false beliefs disappear you have manifested perfect voice. All that was changed were the beliefs about voice. This all takes place in thought, being purely mental, and instead of possessing false beliefs you now have the true idea or the truth about your voice.

Singing is a state of mind. There is nothing more noble on this plane of existence; therefore, let your thoughts be grand, noble and true. The old Italian method is a myth; it never existed. A pupil may go to forty different teachers and be told forty different things; if any

one of the teachers is right, the other thirty-nine are wrong.

There is as much sense in telling a pupil to leave his jaw and throat free and to tighten his diaphragm so that he may sing better, as there is to tell a man to tighten his arms and leave his legs free, that he may walk better. The diaphragm does not sing, and doesn't know it moves. Then why try to get intelligence out of something that has no intelligence?

Our proposition is that voice is now perfect, perfectly placed, free and beautiful and does not have to be changed. But your beliefs will have to change until your voice responds to this premise.

A pupil may say that pressing against the diaphragm helps him, but there are many who will say that pressing on the diaphragm hurts the quality of their voices and also their backs. Truth is universal, and what blesses one must bless all, or it is not truth but individual belief falsely accepted as truth.

As long as a pupil believes and has faith that an exercise will do a certain

thing or bring out a certain quality of voice, it will have a beneficial effect on him. But let him lose faith in the exercise and it will do no more for him, thus showing that the quality was not in the exercise, but in his belief about the exercise. The quality never was in the exercise but is in Mind, and if it seems to be gone it is only an illusion. If he will but change his belief, he will again find it and then will know that it exists in Mind.

Man must become attuned to the harmony of singing before he can sing. Singing is a harmonious state of mind. A singer has stated that he felt fine and thought his voice would be fine, but when he came to sing could not find his voice. He was harmonious on all subjects but singing. Your thoughts must be right on the subject of singing or you will not sing.

By overcoming thoughts that argue against your best work you rise in the scale of life and gain dominion and control. All thoughts that are opposed to man's freedom, holiness (wholeness), purity, health, success and happiness are false,

and these false thoughts must be replaced by the understanding that man is free-born and has dominion over all that is false.

The idea that voice is in the throat or body is rank nonsense and is false. Take the mind away from the body and can the body sing? Voice is dependent upon Mind and upon nothing else. It is necessary that we know the truth about voice and stop groping in the dark.

All so-called "scientific methods" of singing based on physiology are wrong. Teachers of such methods are trying to make the body sing, when it knows nothing about singing and never will know anything. Constant working with such a method of singing must surely lead to physical tone.

The power that revolves this earth in space is the same power that man manifests in singing and in life. It is very necessary that we begin to work with this divine Principle and become more and more enlightened and attuned to our harmonious source.

CHAPTER II

THE SPIRIT OF SINGING

Hope, faith and courage are three necessary qualities in singing, as they are in every walk of life. We frequently hear it said that voice is the gift of God. Surely God never made an imperfect thing. All that God made is perfect and good. God is Good and cannot make anything unlike Himself. Light sends forth light, not darkness. We call light the real, and darkness the absence of light, or the unreal. So with voice. The absence of perfect voice must be darkness, which is unreal. As we see more and more light this darkness will disappear and our real or spiritual voice will be made manifest.

All fine singers know there is a power that comes to them after they have been singing for a while, which makes the voice sound much finer than it did probably a few minutes before. When one is really

conscious of this power, it seems that there is no limit to one's possibilities.

Cast out fear and be not afraid; this power existed before you sang as well as when you were singing. It came to your realization when you were singing because you became less conscious of your body. When you had entirely forgotten the physical you sang your best. The fact that you had to sing and the knowledge that you could sing were held to, and through this understanding fear was cast out. Then the true consciousness of singing was yours.

Now, dear reader, this power is always here and we can be always conscious of it by thinking in the right way. We must stop looking to the body for something it cannot give, and get in touch with the laws of true thought, or Truth, which will lead us on and on in the right way. We will then not ask our body if it is ready to sing, but we shall always be conscious of our perfect ability to sing, and our singing will be far superior to what it was. We then shall have a true understanding

of voice. Our singing will then be purely mental or spiritual.

Any thought that is right and true is spiritual. Any thought that is wrong, or that is not true, or that does not bless all, is unscientific and false—a delusion—and has no more power than one gives it.

In singing we deal entirely with thought. We must find out what we are thinking in order to sift the chaff from the wheat. We must get rid of false thoughts and replace them with true thoughts, or Truth.

Singing is dependent upon nothing else but Mind. If a singer is in a harmonious state of mind he should sing well; if he does not, it is fear which is governing. Fear is nothing but illusion or ignorance, to be cast out by knowing that there is but one power and no other. No matter how real fear seems, it has no more power than one gives it. Fear will disappear when man realizes his God-given dominion. It is well to take an antagonistic attitude toward fear and all erroneous thought, and rise above them. God never made fear. It is a creation of man, and man is not a

creator; therefore, fear is illusion, a falsity or a lie.

To sing is to be divinely natural, which means that a singer has freedom, beauty, power, control, intelligence, strength, health, and all other qualities necessary to do his best. The jaw, throat, tongue, lips, nose, chest or diaphragm can offer no resistance to one's singing well. They know nothing, not even so much as to interfere; if there is any interference it is in the thought, and you should refuse to allow it. A loose jaw is as much a belief as a tight jaw. The thing to do is to forget all about jaw. The jaw doesn't know it is being used, and any intelligence that you give it is false.

If a pupil comes to a teacher with a tight throat, should the teacher tell the pupil to free his jaw and throat? No! The cause of the pupil's tight throat is that he believes his voice is in his throat and has fear about getting it out. He therefore squeezes his throat to get the tone. The pupil should be told that voice is in Mind and that the throat has nothing

to do with singing. Teach the pupil the truths of voice; show him, by reasoning with him, that the Principle of voice is no more in the throat than the power to walk is in the legs. Voice is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. The perfect Principle that supports voice always did exist and always will.

Perfect voice will become more manifest as false thoughts and fears and limitations are cast out. To obey any mortal law laid down by man is to limit one's power. To say that one cannot sing without first holding the chest high and raising the soft palate is nonsense, and is mortal limitation, false belief, a man-made theory, not the truth. To say that one has to press on the diaphragm and control the breath is another man-made belief. To do anything with the body is wrong and unscientific. The control exists in Mind absolutely, and only there. All teaching that leads to self-consciousness (consciousness of the body) is wrong and should be avoided.

There is very little truth taught to-day,

and too much error. We must reverse this and teach all truth; then our teaching will be scientific. It is now nothing but a bundle of man-made, human theories, that sometimes work on account of the pupil's faith but usually fail absolutely. The body of itself can do nothing; it is power-less. There is no intelligence in the body, and all that is intelligent exists in Mind or in thought, even you, the I, the Ego. Because God is, you are; because God is, I am. Do you see, dear reader, there is one perfect cause, one perfect intelligence, one perfect voice, one perfect truth, one perfect God, one perfect Mind, and man, God's compound idea, reflects all this perfection.

Let us clean the cobweb thoughts from our minds, and get out into the light. Let us realize man's wonderful dominion and stop working with physiology and begin to work with thoughts, discarding those that are of the body, and manifesting those that are of Truth. We then shall be working scientifically and our voices will grow more and more beautiful.

Be not afraid of your thoughts; those that are false have no power. Those that are true have no fear in them. They are all powerful, as they come from the perfect Power—God. God is Good and gives nothing to man but good. God is a Principle and all Principle. Let us become conscious of this perfect Principle and it will begin to work in our consciousness or thought. It will produce finer voice than man has ever been able to produce with all his physical beliefs. Man in this state of harmony has confidence, courage, faith, hope, love, intelligence and understanding.

A singer has no right in any other state of mind than a harmonious one, because he is a perfect reflection of a harmonious source. He reflects perfect voice. All thought that is perfect passes from God to man.

Now, dear reader, get rid of the idea that you live in the body, because you exist in thought. To be conscious is to live, and consciousness is purely mental.

Let us no more look to throat, dia-

phragm, tongue, jaw, teeth, chest or nose for voice, but let us think in the direction from which voice comes. Let us learn more and more of Truth.

The perfect source of voice is good; therefore, accept no thought that limits you in any way or that stops you from progressing, because such a thought does not come from God but is man-made and is false.

We are constantly working with two sources of thought. One is real, the other unreal; one is true, the other false; one the creation of God—the real one; the other a creation of man—the false one. The unreal source, which is false, is to be gotten rid of by a greater knowledge of the real source. In other words, as we become conscious of the laws of harmony, we lose our sense of discord; as we see more and more light, darkness disappears, and that which before seemed true we now find is false and never was true.

The only reason there are singers to-day is that the spirit of singing is so strong within their minds that all the

material, mortal, man-made methods of singing cannot quench their desire to sing. Such persons will sing in spite of methods.

That the mind is the only factor in singing was discovered by me after eleven years of vocal study with the best teachers of singing in America and Europe, after my voice was practically ruined. I had gotten gleams of this wonderful Truth throughout my studies. But how to make practical use of it did not come to my consciousness until the early part of 1915, although some three years before I had written considerably on the metaphysics of voice and had read my writings to several well-known people in Philadelphia and New York.

All action of the vocal apparatus is dependent upon thought; if you do not open your mouth, it will not open. The body of itself has no power. If you do not move your hand, it will not move. All control is in Mind. Your body will act perfectly when you are in a harmonious state of mind and are fearless. You will then realize dominion, power, free-

dom, intelligence and a wonderful sense of peace and joy.

The reason singers are filled with worry and fear is that they are constantly attributing intelligence to that which is non-intelligent, believing the body with training will do this or that thing, when the body knows nothing before or after training. The body cannot move without mind or thought. We exist in Mind. We live by our thoughts. It is very necessary that we accept and put into practice right thoughts. That person constantly experimenting with his diaphragm, chest, tongue, soft palate and nose, is looking in the wrong direction, and will never find the intelligence that sings in any of these things. He must change his course and seek the truth in Mind, where it really is, and stop looking to the body to produce a mental effect. To sing well is to be conscious of freedom, and how can a singer who is tied up with false human physical beliefs be free?

CHAPTER III

FALSE HUMAN THEORIES OF
VOICE

All human theories relative to voice are false. One teacher says to sing well one must open one's throat; another says that to open the throat is wrong but that one should press on the diaphragm. And what teacher is there that does not do something with either the lips, mouth, tongue, soft palate, nose or diaphragm, or all of these things? I have never met one that did not have some belief about some part of the body. Singing has nothing to do with any part of the body, but is a result of right thinking.

The diaphragm knows nothing and does not need to be strengthened. But the mind does, and it needs to be strengthened with thoughts of truth. If you have a beautiful voice you were also given control over

it. If you are ignorant of your rights you will probably study tone production, until later you find that voice exists in Mind.

The knowledge that one can do a thing makes the body respond to it. If you wish to walk you do so, and the legs follow without your becoming conscious of them. You are conscious of your perfect ability to walk. In singing, the same state of mind is desired.

Supposing an infant learning to walk was taught to place first one foot out and hold it there, and then to bring the other up to it. How long do you think it would be before the baby could walk? The baby would be learning physiology, which has nothing to do with the power to walk. In teaching a child to walk he is generally encouraged to run from one person to another.

Voice is the gift of God. The power to sing is also the gift of God and is within you, or rather within your thought. Realize this, oh singer, and take possession of your voice and sing and no more allow

the body to stop you from singing. God made man capable of this and there can be no power opposed to His. Assert your perfect ability to sing, knowing that any erroneous thought is not sustained by God and has no more intelligence than you give it. Rise above any seeming obstruction and continue to sing. By rising above every false condition we gain more and more dominion and these false conditions disappear.

The throat, tongue, diaphragm, jaw or any other physical organ has no intelligence to talk to you, therefore, refuse to be dictated to by your body. Mind must be found to be superior to every physical belief, and the more one's mind is filled with truth, which comes from God, the stronger one will be. It thus follows that a greater knowledge of God and what God is will give man greater power and freedom. God is perfect Mind. There is not a mistake in Him. God is perfect Principle. God is the only Power. God is the first and only Cause of all that is. God is perfect Intelligence. God is all Truth and

there is none beside Him. God is Good.

God's gifts to man are intelligence, courage, strength, health, happiness, success, power and freedom, and every good thing. Man is God's image and likeness and must reflect all that God is. God is Good and man must be entitled to every good thing in so much as he reflects or is conscious of Good. When a singer begins to realize that this perfect Principle is the power that sings, he will naturally want to gain a greater knowledge of it.

When as a child you were first told two and two equalled four it probably meant nothing to you. But after hearing it several times it began to dawn on you. When you realized what it meant, you then had hold of a perfect principle, which one may find anywhere in the world. The same applies to the principle or power to sing; it always has existed and always will. To lead one into harmony with this Principle is the Purpose of this book. This Principle or power will work in our consciousness as we seek and trust it. We never for a moment doubt the principle

of mathematics, and neither will we the principle of voice as we become better acquainted with it.

Knowledge is power, but it must be real knowledge. Knowledge of the Principle of voice is power, but knowledge of physiology as applied to singing is not power but illusion—false belief called knowledge. The less conscious one is of the body, the better one will sing; the more one is conscious of where one's power is, the better one will sing.

To become conscious of the principle of voice we must look away from the body into Mind and become acquainted with our thoughts. We should examine our thoughts and find out from whence they come. If they come from the body we know that they are wrong and are not to be accepted. Only thoughts whose origin is God are to be accepted and put into practice.

You may say: "I want to sing. I know I have a beautiful voice and I also know I don't get all that I should out of my voice. Sometimes I think it is the fault

of my breathing, and other times I think it is the placing of the tones. Still other times I think, maybe, I don't know how to open my throat." Dear reader, the power to sing is not in any one of these things, and if you will stop looking to the body for something you will never find in it, and turn to Mind, you will begin to find this wonderful Power. The body cannot sing and has no intelligence, and no one can get intelligence out of something that is non-intelligent.

If your body seems to offer resistance when you apply these truths, be not discouraged but keep persistently at it until you have cleared up this false condition and have come into your own. It is possible to do this at once; it all depends upon how much light you see.

Until you mentally become master of your voice, it will constantly play you false. Look not to the body for intelligence to sing, but seek the Principle. I admit that one breathes when one sings and also that the throat opens in varying degrees. But these are effects, not the

cause of singing. To teach a pupil to breathe and to open his throat is putting the cart before the horse, and only making him self-conscious, or conscious of his body, as though the intelligence to sing were in his diaphragm or throat.

To be tied up with the beliefs most singers have, makes singing anything but a pleasure. If you think the secret of singing is in breathing, you are mistaken. Dear reader, which seems the real to you, hate or love, falsity or truth, discord or harmony, ignorance or intelligence, sickness or health, imperfection or perfection, failure or success? If love, truth, harmony, intelligence, health, perfection and success are real or true, then hate, falsity, discord, ignorance, sickness, imperfection and failure must be unreal or untrue. Being untrue, they have no principle to support them. Therefore they cannot exist. All that is real is supported by principle, law and truth. They can only exist by your giving them existence; in reality they are illusion or evil. There is no truth in them. Any supposed power

that deprives man of his birthright, which is Dominion, is false and has no more intelligence than one gives it.

There can be no power apart from God. God says: "I am all. There is none beside Me." God is the only Power, and this Power is what man manifests in singing. Man is a reflection of God, and as man's consciousness is attuned to his Maker's, does he reflect all that his Maker is.

When a man begins to realize where his intelligence is, he naturally begins to have more confidence, courage, hope, faith, love and intelligence. If our minds are filled with thoughts of fear, limitation, sickness, discord, etc., we must get rid of these false thoughts so that we may see clearly. We must stop believing these false thoughts, and they will disappear. Let us not give reality to that which is unreal, but rather let us think on those things which are real, and "hold fast to that which is good."

Voice cannot be without Mind, therefore voice must be in Mind. Man is the master of his voice. You are the master of

your voice; your voice is not the master of you. When man was given a voice he was also given control of it. A singer has perfect control of his voice throughout its range. He must realize this and take possession of his voice, and never allow it to control him.

Never place a limit on your range. There is no reason why one should not sing one's high tones and be sure of them. Fear and ignorance are all that stop one from rightly doing so. In place of fear and ignorance we must have courage and knowledge, the knowledge that man has control, confidence and assurance. The only reason that singing the high tones seems more difficult than singing the low tones is the general belief about them. Everyone believes it is more difficult to sing the high tones. If everyone believed the low tones more difficult to sing, it would be so. Dear reader, we don't have to accept the general belief about high tones. Let us clear our minds of all these false beliefs and learn the truth about voice.

CHAPTER IV

THE TRUE SOURCE OF VOICE

All beauty, freshness, power and control exist in thought. As you hold fast to these and all that is good, so will they come to pass.

We think thousands of thoughts every day, and we should refuse to accept or believe those that are false, never giving them any power, simply knowing that they are counterfeit, and they will fall to the ground. As man sifts the chaff from the wheat, and weeds out all false thought such as fear and limitation, will he come into his own. Fear and ignorance will disappear when man realizes his God-given dominion.

Never be afraid to take your next step. The Principle that supported you up to where you are will support you all the way. No one doubts that the sun will continue to shine, even if he doesn't see

it for a week. No singer should doubt his perfect ability to sing. The Principle that causes the sun to shine is the same Principle one manifests in singing. This Principle is in you and you are in it.

If we wish to do an example, we come into harmony with the principle of mathematics, and we accept no conclusion unless it is in harmony with our principle. We would not accept the statement that 3 and 3 equal 5, but we would keep thinking until we realize that 3 and 3 equal 6, all the time knowing that we had to conform to our principle, and refusing any statement that was false. By holding to our principle we arrive at the right conclusion. So with singing. By holding fast to the principle of voice and rejecting all false thought do we arrive at perfection, and bring out beauty, freedom and power. Voice depends upon principle, and the more you are conscious of this principle and understand it, the finer your voice will be and the greater your ability to sing. God has given man dominion and power. But if a man is ignorant of his

rights, of what avail is God's work to that man? He must look away from the things that are seen to the things that are unseen, as it is the unseen things that are substantial. A singer's power is not in his body, but in the thoughts which he receives. The more his mind is open to the perfect source, the greater his power.

Man receives every good and right thought from his Maker. From his body he receives false thoughts. As the body cannot talk he should refuse these false thoughts and they will disappear. He then will become conscious of one power only, and that one a good one, or God. Do not walk in darkness, but rather walk in the light.

The raising of the chest and holding it in one position is a false belief. By this I do not mean that one should not stand straight when one sings, but the deliberate raising of the chest makes one conscious of the chest. It is only another false belief. One should be able to sing standing or lying, with a high or a low chest. If you believe that raising the chest helps

you, it will be according to your belief. Such a belief is not scientific, in so much as it leads one away from the Principle, and puts intelligence into something which is non-intelligent. The power one uses when singing is not in the chest, but in Mind. The only evidence a singer has that he has a voice is in his thoughts about his voice.

A teacher told me this morning that the voice is in the body and has to be gotten out. Every teacher I know believes the same thing. Because the vocal cords vibrate and the diaphragm moves, they seize upon these as the cause of good tone, and immediately begin to control them. In reality they are only effects and have nothing to do with the cause of tone. If every thought that is opposed to fine singing is ruled out of the mind, a singer cannot find a defect in the tone, and he will manifest perfect voice, freedom, power, beauty, control and dominion. Every fine artist knows he must have freedom to express himself; he must have a sense of power and dominion, so that

he may let his vision work. One tied down with false beliefs about tone production cannot be free.

We should have such a knowledge of metaphysics that we never have to think of vocalizing before we sing, but simply stand up and sing, knowing we have the ability to do so. We only vocalize to ask our body if it is ready to sing, when the body knows nothing. In reality we vocalize until our mind is ready to sing. The only thing that stopped us from singing first was a false belief, a belief that we had to vocalize and get our voice in shape, when in reality our voice is always in shape. What we do need is to get our minds in shape and learn the truth about voice. After we know the truth we shall never again ask the body if it can do anything. We shall then understand where our power is and we shall sing with authority. I would say: Sing a great deal and vocalize not at all.

Voice is right now, and always was, and always will be right. Voice has never been any more right than it is now. Be-

come conscious of the *fact* that your voice is now right. The top of the voice is no more essential than the bottom. The right quality of voice is manifest now. All that is right exists now. Can a dead person sing? No! Why? Because the mind has left the body. The I, the ego, the power that sings has left it. The power, quality, beauty, freshness, etc., was in the mind.

Never be afraid of forcing the voice; the fear of forcing should be gotten rid of by changing the belief and knowing that voice cannot be forced. You cannot force Mind. One not afraid of forcing his voice will never force it; the one who is afraid and is very careful lest he force his voice, should get rid of his fear and false belief. As long as a singer gives power to a false belief, it holds him in bondage. Let us reason out of these false beliefs into real knowledge which will make us free. Let us be free from all physical beliefs such as breathing, opening the throat, etc., and all other false beliefs, so that we may express our God-given power. Dear reader, Truth does not tie one down but

frees one. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." The truth will free you from every erroneous thought, and your voice will pour forth in all its glory.

What singer who is constantly thinking of his throat but is running to a specialist every week? Why? Because he is trying to put intelligence into something that does not know it exists. Singers worry and fear about their voices, and wonder if they will be in condition, when they ought to know voice always was and always will be in condition.

It is no more necessary to think of throat or any physical organ when singing than it is to think of the legs when walking. The body has as much to do with singing as it has with walking. The body does not walk. You say, I walk; it is the I, or ego, that does it, and the same in singing—the I, ego, Mind does it. Become conscious of the fact that you can sing and that the body can neither help nor hinder you, because it is non-intelligent, and you will have power over it.

You will then turn from the belief that you live in the body to this wonderful source of Truth which is God. You then will realize that you are, because this Power is, and you then will exist in Mind.

A pupil comes to a teacher believing that he has a voice; the teacher tries his voice and substantiates his belief. The only evidence that the pupil has a voice is in his mind. The teacher then begins to work with the pupil's body to make his voice (mind) more beautiful. He teaches him breathing, voice placing and all the other man-made thoughts that are supposed to control singing. What voice the pupil had when he began he called natural. He certainly is fortunate if he has as much voice when he gets through. A knowledge of physiology will never teach a pupil where the power is that he uses, but will lead him further away from it.

One celebrated teacher of singing states that the first thing needed in singing is Mind. It has been demonstrated to me that Mind is the first, last and only thing needed.

The only proof that you understand my teachings is in your ability to demonstrate what I write. If your voice grows more beautiful and you are becoming free, you are then demonstrating this wonderful Principle of voice. Keep your mind busy constantly reasoning, and accept no thought that is unscientific. Accept no mortal, man-made thought, but only those whose origin is God. God says: "I made man in My image and likeness—I give man power and dominion, intelligence, freedom, love, courage, strength, ability, health, success and every good and right thing."

Singing teachers say: "Yes, God gives you the voice, but we shall have to teach you to control the diaphragm so that you may sing." Evidently God forgot to give us the power to use our voices and we shall have to get that from the teachers.

We can sing mentally without effort, but when we come to sing audibly, lo and behold, the body seems to interfere. This would not be so unless we allowed it. We allow this only through ignorance. The

body has no more power when you audibly sing, than it has when you mentally sing.

The ignorant beliefs holding you in bondage must be gotten rid of to prove this statement. The ignorant beliefs pertaining to singing are that the body sings, and that one must do something with it to make it sing—that one must produce one's voice, when it is already produced. God produced it. Let neither fear nor doubt stop you from singing and demonstrating your perfect ability to sing.

All quality and power exist in thought. When a layman wishes to speak he does so without thinking of his throat or diaphragm, but when a singer sings he thinks he must be conscious of all the physical organs which he thinks produce tone. The more conscious one becomes of the physical organs in singing, the worse one sings and the more physical the tone.

Now, when we reverse our order of thinking, we must naturally achieve different results. The results achieved from this different way of thinking will be right results. as we shall then look to Mind for

voice, and our voices will manifest all that is mental, such as freedom, beauty, power, control, color, breadth, lightness, grace and every quality necessary to fine singing. We shall be free, and instead of our voices controlling us, we shall control our voices.

Until we have mental control we shall never sing our best. To achieve mental control we must see our way out of physiology into ontology, and must demonstrate the fact that the body cannot sing.

One teacher stated that I would take away every prop the pupil had. I should certainly take away every physical prop the pupil thinks he has, but in place of these I should teach the pupil the principle of voice, which will give him solid understanding. I should teach him the truth of voice, which he can never find in anything physical.

CHAPTER V.

THE MENTAL PRINCIPLE

There is a principle which exists that controls voice, and it is purely mental, just as mathematics is controlled by a mental principle. Does anyone doubt that the principle of mathematics is mental? The fact that the principle of voice has not been discovered before does not prove that it does not exist. The only proof anyone has that there is a principle supporting mathematics is in his knowledge of mathematics. You surely cannot see the principle of mathematics with your eyes, neither can you feel it with your hands. Neither can you see with your eyes nor feel with your hands the principle of voice. You can only come into harmony with the principle of voice through reason.

The greater knowledge you possess of this principle, the greater freedom you manifest. The only proof that you under-

stand any part of it is in your works. If you have a greater sense of freedom, power and control than you had before, and your voice is more free and beautiful, and you are singing throughout your range without difficulty, you then prove that you have some understanding of this principle. With more knowledge you will achieve still greater results.

The sooner you see that there is no intelligence in the body, the sooner you will drop your physical thinking and stop looking for voice where it does not exist. Until you have lost all faith in physical training and arrive at that fulness of understanding wherein you know that you control your voice, your belief will constantly change until your voice comes forth in all its splendor.

We breathed before we saw the light of day, and yet we have teachers teaching breathing. We open our throats with every drink of water and every mouthful of food we swallow, and yet teachers teach how to open the throat. Dear reader, the *act* of singing takes care of breathing and

of everything concerned in singing, just as in the act of eating everything is taken care of, and you are not even conscious of your throat opening and closing.

The sooner one forgets all about voice-placing, throat, diaphragm, and every physical organ supposed to do with singing, the better one will sing.

The more a singer works with physiology, the more physical his voice becomes and the less mental; the more he works with Mind, the less physical becomes his voice, until he reaches that state of mind wherein he realizes that all is Mind and that there is no part of physiology in voice. With this understanding a singer will realize his dominion and power. Then the fear of weather or any other false belief will be powerless to interfere with his perfect ability to sing.

The belief that the tongue must be flat and the soft palate up is man-made. One should refuse to accept it. We say a bird sings naturally. How much better are we than a bird, O we of little faith!

Relaxation is a belief which has noth-

ing to do with singing. There is no reason why you should relax any more than there is reason why you should tighten. When you deliberately relax, you assume that there is something stopping the tone. The truth is there is nothing stopping it. You tighten because you have fear, or else because you believe the voice to be in the body. Does anyone relax his jaw before he begins to speak? No! One is not even conscious of a jaw. There is neither reason nor sense in placing before you a man-made law that you must relax before you begin to sing.

When one has seemingly lost his voice (for, of course, one can never really lose his voice), where has it gone? The vocal cords have not changed, the diaphragm still remains and every physical organ is still where it was. Now, if the voice is in the body, why can't one sing? The voice is not lost. The singer only believes it is. If he will change his belief and realize that voice is mental and comes from God, and that one cannot lose God, he will find his voice.

The cause of voice is God, and one can only reach God through thought. Let us reason from the first cause, and if we reason rightly our results must be right. Let us find out what God made and then find out what man thinks he makes. After we have seen what God made we will want to forget all that man seems to make.

The belief that it is harder to sing some vowels than others is false. A singer has the power to sing all vowels on every tone in his voice. One singer says, I can sing E and U on my high tones, but cannot sing Ah or O; another singer states that he can sing Ah or O with ease on his high tones, but cannot sing E or U. Both of these men have the wrong belief. They should know that they can sing all vowels on all tones. To sing all vowels on all tones is scientific, and every singer should be able to do it. Keep reasoning out of false beliefs into Truth, and then practice well what you know.

A singer carries his voice in his mind, and he should delineate upon it thoughts of truth, such as freedom, beauty, control,

power, freshness, etc. When you have seen your way out of physiology and have forgotten the physical, your voice will constantly grow more beautiful.

What is a singer doing today but constantly thinking of his voice and thinking the wrong way? He worries, wondering if his voice will be right when he needs to use it; he doubts and has fear, and as a consequence his voice is seldom dependable. He is constantly disturbing his equilibrium. The opposite line of thinking would do away with all this error and produce the very results he desires.

Whatever we see with our eyes or hear with our ears is never a cause but an effect. To find the truth we must go to the cause, which we will find to be Mind.

Because the diaphragm moves when we sing is no sign that it is causing tone. The moving of the diaphragm is only an effect, and so with all the other organs supposed to do with singing—their action is only an effect.

A pupil discovers that his throat opens slightly more on the high tones, and he

seizes upon this as a cause. The next time he sings high he deliberately raises his soft palate, and is fortunate if his tone is good. The constant working with the soft palate, diaphragm, tongue or any part of the body must surely lead to physical tone. Some singers learn to breathe and to open their throats and also to place their tones, and they sing for years. But eventually they must awake to this truth, that voice does not exist in the body, but in Mind.

A famous singer told me some years ago that it was necessary to learn to breathe and to open the throat. Since then he has lost his voice and is now anything but sure that this kind of knowledge is right. He knows all about physiology, but where is his voice? He looked too many years in the wrong place. He thought he was singing owing to his knowledge of physiology, but he was mistaken, and now will have to find the truth.

Dear reader, there is a principle underlying and supporting voice, and it is the same principle that rolls this earth in space. Once we come into harmony with

it we will begin to realize upon what voice depends and will stop looking to our bodies for intelligence with which to sing.

A singer finds his voice in bad shape, loses faith and changes teachers. The new teacher has a few different beliefs about voice from the last one, and as the pupil has faith in the new teacher he improves somewhat according to his faith. But he at last realizes that the beliefs this new teacher has, while different from the last teacher's, are just as erroneous. He then goes from one teacher to another, but always with the same results. They are all wrong, as they make their deductions from the body, believing voice to be in the body. If they knew better, they would do better. Every teacher I know or ever met I believe to be teaching the best he knows, but each and every one of them is working from the wrong premise. When the thought is right and no attention is paid to the body, the body will work perfectly.

Who thinks of the muscles, ligaments and bones in his legs when walking? But almost every singer one meets has a pic-

ture in his mind of his throat or nose or some part of his body. He constantly carries it with him, always thinking about it and about where he should place his tones, how he should breathe and hold his chest. Dear reader, this is all error. It is "the fruit of the tree of knowledge of which one should not eat."

A well-known throat specialist states that by pressing on the fifth vertebra it helps the tone! Some one else may discover that holding the little toe at an angle of forty-five degrees may help the tone! Another physician advertises "eats" for voice, when the greatest physician the world has ever known stated that one should take no thought about what one should eat!

It stands to reason that a person whose mind is filled with erroneous thoughts cannot sing well. One whose mind is filled with wrong thoughts about voice cannot help but manifest what he thinks; he is in bondage and must be freed. The way one corrects a mistake in mathematics is through reasoning, and the way to cor-

rect a mistake in voice is through reasoning, out of that which is false, into that which is true. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." That statement is as true today as it was nineteen hundred years ago when Jesus uttered it.

The belief that voice is relaxed in the morning and that it grows better towards evening is false. Voice is never relaxed; if you have such a belief you should know better. Forget all about relaxation and know that you can sing any and all times. Voice is always perfect. It is perfect now. The power one sings with is always the same at all times. It is neither relaxed nor tight, but is always ready and right.

We should examine ourselves to see what we believe, and then refuse to believe what is false. By refusing to believe what is false and overcoming it do we gain freedom and dominion.

Supposing a pupil tied up with voice work (and what pupil who is studying voice is not?) was to forget all that he had ever learned about voice. Would he still

worry and be bound? No! He would be free. Therefore the so-called knowledge of voice that he had was false, as it bound him. When he has forgotten it he is free. But he says: "I must have some knowledge, as my voice does not now manifest perfection." I agree with him. He must have the knowledge that will lead him from where he is now into Truth.

He begins to work with thought, constantly sifting the chaff from the wheat, until he realizes his voice sounds better than it ever did. He is now looking at voice from a different point of view, and therefore is in a better state of consciousness. He has not changed his voice, but has changed his beliefs about voice. As his beliefs have come into harmony with the Principle his voice improved. One cannot change voice, but one can change beliefs, and that through reason and revelation. Voice is always perfect, and one's belief will constantly change until one realizes this statement.

By reasoning out of false beliefs into Truth, paying no attention to the body

and letting the voice alone, never placing the tones, do we bring out perfect voice. We thereby prove that voice is purely mental, as we have done nothing but change the beliefs. The voice was always perfect, but we did not prove this statement until we demonstrated it by getting rid of our false knowledge and finding the truth. God made voice, and when we see voice as God sees it, our voices will manifest absolute perfection.

A sculptor does not bring out a fine head by constantly losing the model which he has in mind, but by holding to his vision until the head is completed. So with singing, by always keeping a perfect vision of voice does a singer bring out perfect voice.

You are working with a harmonious Principle, in which there is no struggle. This Principle works perfectly, because it is perfect. It works harmoniously, because it is all-harmonious. This Principle, which includes all Principle, is all that is. It is the pearl of great price. If ye seek ye shall surely find it.

CHAPTER VI

GOD'S GIFT OF VOICE

A person never speaks unless he desires to say something. There is always a meaning behind what he is saying. He does not talk merely to hear himself. A singer should never vocalize to hear himself sing. There should be a thought with meaning behind his vocalization. Without inspiration vocalization is nothing but a physical exercise, from which no good can come. This is the reason I seldom use vocalises. It is much more satisfactory to sing a fine song or aria, which has meaning back of it, than a meaningless exercise which has nothing to commend it but an empty melody. Singers should exercise the faculty of singing, but not the voice as a physical thing.

Inspiration is the singer's stock in trade; without it he becomes a tone maker. In-

spiration is not physical but mental—a state of mind which one gets into who works with divine Principle. We should forget our bodies in our singing.

The fact that anyone can sing a high tone (no matter how the tone sounds) is proof that the tone can be sung beautifully. If the tone can be sung at all, it can be sung rightly. If you can't sing a high tone, you should have more courage. There is no place where voice cannot be found. The power to sing is always present. It is all-presence. Without an attempt to sing the high tones they will not come; of itself your voice does not sing. You are the controller of the situation. The belief that the high tones are difficult is false and must be overcome by rising above it and singing them. Any thought which makes singing more difficult than speaking must be cast out. Singing is as easy as a singer makes it. God made voice, and God is perfect now, therefore, voice must be perfect now. God never changes, therefore voice can never be changed. But false beliefs must be

exchanged for true thoughts until we realize our perfect voice.

Cause is what we must seek, and cause is not in the body but in Mind. If voice depends upon breath, what does breath depend upon? Mind. And Mind is God, therefore God is the cause of voice. A knowledge of God-Principle, or of Good Principle, will do away with any and all false beliefs, and discord of every nature will disappear.

Who made registers? Surely God never made them. Registers do not exist in a perfect voice. Voice is one, not three, and must be considered as a whole—a perfect whole. As long as a singer believes voice to be made of registers or parts, so long will he manifest what he believes.

When we realize that voice is one and perfect, the belief of registers will disappear. Registers have no place in a perfect voice, and we have no right giving place to them.

If God created registers, which make a voice imperfect, then He created something unlike Himself. It is impossible for

God, Who is all perfection, to create anything unlike Himself, or imperfect. Man does this false creating, and man is not a creator.

Realize, dear reader, that you have dominion over registers or any other false condition. God has given you this power. Your voice can neither crack nor play pranks with you unless you allow such a condition. Realize your God-given control throughout your entire range and through all degrees of power. Man has perfect control of his voice at all times.

After you have lost your physical sense of voice you will find your spiritual or real voice. It is first necessary to lose our physical sense of life before we find our spiritual or real life, and the same applies to voice. The physical voice is short-lived, full of trouble and always unsatisfactory. In losing one's false sense of voice, one really has not lost anything, but gained everything.

Do not think that you can work with both body and mind and be successful. The two run in opposite directions. Fine

results only can be brought out by radically holding to Mind. Singers must get out of this maze of physiology being taught all over the world today into the pure realm of Mind. A teacher must be able to lead a pupil away from his thoughts about body and guide him into the Science of Mind, or else that teacher is not a true teacher.

Mind needs no help from the body to make the voice what it should be—perfect. You do not have to control any part of the body to manifest perfect voice. The fact of controlling the body is the cause of all the trouble with the singing of today. You control the body best when it is most out of your thought. It likewise follows that you cannot place tones, as voice is already placed, and that by the Creator. His work cannot be improved upon by man. Can you imagine a person talking to you and placing every tone? What is our remark about such a person? Either that he is very much affected or self-conscious and egotistical. Is not this what most singers and students are doing today?

The study of voice is an unfoldment from God to man.

The universe is sustained by Truth, and so is man, and by the same Truth. Remember when wrestling with erroneous beliefs that Truth is on your side, and Truth is always the victor. Do not fear error and run from it, but rather overcome error with Truth.

When error seems to be present you can dispel it by knowing its opposite, Truth, to be the real and right. The opposite of error is always true. A thought of courage will always dispel a thought of fear. Every physical thought and every fear thought must be reasoned away, both those of which you are conscious and those of which you are unaware. Those thoughts of which you are unaware, but which may be holding you in bondage, will be brought to the surface as you work with divine Principle.

The moment you are conscious that a belief is erroneous, it will begin to disappear. Erroneous belief has no mind or principle to support it, therefore it cannot

last. God is All, and God is Good. Good is the only Power, and that which is opposed to Good must be illusion. Man, God's idea, has dominion over every illusion which seems to be but is not. That which is erroneous and false has neither presence, power nor intelligence.

The source of Man's intelligence is not in body, but is in Mind—God. Man of himself or his body can do nothing, but working with God, divine Principle, he can overcome any difficulty. Man must be obedient to divine Principle and he will receive his reward.

If an illusion seems difficult to overcome, you must have a stronger faith, even as the sun, which is ever shining, in clear or stormy weather, and "Thy faith will make thee whole."

A singer's life consists in dispelling illusions and becoming free, in gaining dominion and reflecting God.

That a singer uses a certain intelligence when singing cannot be denied, and that this power is Mind must be sooner or later found out. A singer sings by the "Grace

of God," and not through any power of his own. With a knowledge of divine Principle he is free and sings with abandon.

If God—Good, is All-powerful, then every thought opposed to Good must be powerless. By refusing to make real that which lacks power, it disappears. The only intelligence which evil can boast is human—man-made and in reality is no intelligence at all. A knowledge of divine Intelligence makes the unreal semblance of intelligence vanish. One must constantly argue on the side of Truth.

God says: "I give man perfect voice. I sustain and control voice, and a singer can control his voice only through a knowledge of Me. I am All. Seek my kingdom and all is yours. A singer must think as I think. I am the Cause. I am the intelligence sustaining the universe, man and voice. It is not your will which shall be done, but My will. I made man to reflect My glory. He is My perfect idea. Come to me and be at peace. All that I have to give is good, because I am all

Good. Learn of Me and your voice will grow more beautiful unto the perfect day."

If an illusion or false belief seems difficult to overcome, it is because of education and the individual's belief in its reality. But persistence and patience, with an unswerving faith in the triumph of right, will surely have its reward.

A singer must hold to the realization of perfect voice, no matter what seems to be the evidence before him. A diamond-cutter, from a rough stone, cuts a perfect diamond. This he does, not by holding in mind a rough stone, but by keeping in vision a perfect diamond.

A singer does not succeed in this world by accepting the evidence before his senses, but by rising above this evidence and trusting God, or Good, in whom he has some faith. According to his faith, so be it.

The evidence before the senses says success is difficult to obtain; science says success is man's rightful heritage. The evidence before the senses says the earth is standing still; science says the earth is

moving. The evidence before the senses says we shall have no more sun when night comes on; science says the sun is always shining. To achieve harmony we must work scientifically and refute the evidence before the senses.

Man, equipped with God's power, has dominion over his voice throughout its range and through all degrees of power.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Isa. 12:2.

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